

Attorney Docket No. 29402.17
Customer No. 000027683

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following paragraph:

[0010] It has been found that the above-mentioned need can be satisfied by providing a composition comprising a silicone microemulsion system, a wetting agent and optionally, a fluorocarbon or hydrocarbon propellant if an aerosol system is desired. In some embodiments, the silicone compounds contained in the silicone microemulsion system may undergo a condensation reaction on the surface of the tire to form a tough silicone film in intimate contact with the subject tire. The gloss and water ~~repellency~~ repellancy of this silicone film imparts a highly lustrous and ~~water-repellent~~ water-repellant surface to the tire. At the same time, the wetting agent reduces the surface tension of the silicone compounds, thereby allowing the composition to spread out and wet the tire surface.

Please replace paragraph [0011] with the following paragraph:

[0011] In other embodiments, a tire polishing and protective composition comprises a silicone microemulsion system based on amino functional silicones and adjusted emulsifiers, i.e., surfactants and cosurfactants, with interfacial functionalities to emulsify the silicone compounds in an aqueous system to form a stable silicone microemulsion system, and a wetting agent which reduces the surface tension of the silicone compounds in the silicone microemulsion system to allow the silicone compounds to wet and spread out on the tire surface. The tire polishing and protective composition optionally comprises a fluorocarbon or hydrocarbon ~~repellent~~ propellant, if an aerosol system is desired.

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following paragraph:

[0012] In accordance with embodiments of the invention, the tire dressing compositions are capable of forming a durable, shiny, water ~~repellent~~ repellant coating on a tire, which is resistant to water and detergent washings. The tire dressing composition exhibits good shine durability under wet weather conditions and exhibits low surface tension enabling better spreadability on tire surface with uniformity in gloss. Preferably, the tire dressing compositions are handled by consumers by a simple trigger spray and walk away method or other simple application methods such as sponging onto the tire surface.

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Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following paragraph:

[0013] Any silicone microemulsion which is capable of forming a coating providing an attractive, bright, shiny, like-new tire appearance, having water wash and detergent wash resistance can be used in the embodiments of the invention. Microemulsions are thermodynamically stable dispersions of two immiscible liquids with carefully adjusted emulsifiers i.e., surfactants and cosurfactants. The dispersed phase consists of small droplets with ranging in size from 10 to 100 microns. The criterion of thermodynamic stability accounts for as many of the properties which make microemulsions of practical interest, namely, their ability to form spontaneously when the various components are brought together in the proper temperature range, their stability at constant chemical composition and temperature, and their stability under shear. The transparency, which follows from the small size of the dispersed phase, is an aesthetic property which is of great importance in many consumer products. The microemulsions also show a higher penetration than macroemulsions into porous materials, allow a more uniform dispersion of active substances soluble only in the disperse phase, and yield high gloss and film integrity in the case of waxes and paint vehicles.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following paragraph:

[0020] The suitable emulsifiers system, i.e., surfactants and cosurfactants, should have the an emulsification capability of emulsifying amino functional silicone fluids with the a viscosity range within 40 cSt to 500,000 cSt at room temperature, and to achieve the a stable clear and transparent appearance with long-term shelf life stability under normal storage conditions. The silicone microemulsion of the present invention have has a droplet size which is below the wavelength of the visible light such that the emulsion appears clear and transparent. The content of emulsifier in the compositions of the invention are in the range of 0.5 to 20% by weight, preferably 1 to 10% by weight.

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following paragraph:

[0023] In certain embodiments of the invention, a bio-protection chemistry preservative such as the polymethoxy bicyclic oxazolidine or a biocide is added to prevent the potential

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microbiological problems resulting from ~~the possible~~ microorganisms that might exist in the water based system of the compositions of the embodiments of the invention.

Please replace paragraph [0025] with the following paragraph:

[0025] In certain embodiments, antifoaming agents are added to the tire dressing composition to prevent foaming of the tire dressing composition. Suitable antifoaming agents include, but are not limited to, silicone based antifoaming agents, mineral oil based antifoaming agent agents, and ~~defoaming a defoaming~~ system of a mixture of foam destroying polymers and hydrophobic solids (polyureas). Examples of a silicone based antifoaming agents are the silica filled polydimethyl siloxane and the polyether modified polysiloxanes. Preferably, the silica filled polydimethyl siloxane is used in embodiments of the invention.

Please replace paragraph [0026] with the following paragraph:

[0026] In certain embodiments of the invention, pigments such as the iron oxides and platelets of mica, or titanium dioxide and platelets of mica, or titanium dioxide, stannic oxide, and platelets of mica may be added to the silicone microemulsion based gel type tire dressing product to provide various coloring effects. Further, in certain embodiments, precision cut metallic glitter particles consisting of pigmented polyethylene terephthalate, or some other types of precision cut film/foil glitter particles such as the aluminized PVC film or ultra thin aluminum foil coated with thermoset crosslinked epoxy system, or some other types of precision cut brilliant metallized polyester film glitter particles, are added to the silicone microemulsion based gel type tire dressing product to deliver the glittering effects with brilliance. The coloring and glittering effects can be achieved in a single product by combining the aforementioned pigments and glitters together.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following paragraph:

[0027] The tire dressing compositions of the present invention may be stored in PVC bottles, or ~~alternately in~~ PET bottles or aerosol cans.

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